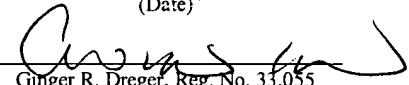


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant	:	Wells et al.	) Group Art Unit 1639
Appl. No.	:	10/043,833	)
Filed	:	January 11, 2002	) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on
For	:	METHODS FOR RAPIDLY IDENTIFYING SMALL ORGANIC MOLECULE LIGANDS FOR BINDING TO BIOLOGICAL TARGET MOLECULES	) December 12, 2002 (Date)  Ginger R. Dreger, Reg. No. 33,055
Examiner	:	Jon D. Epperson	)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In the Office Action mailed on November 19, 2002 in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicants were requested to elect, for examination purposes, either the invention of Group I (claims 40-56), or the invention of Group II (claims 57-62). If electing the invention of Group I, Applicants were requested to elect a single species from each of Subgroups 1-8 listed on pages 4-5 of the Office Action. If electing the invention of Group II, Applicants were further requested to elect of single species from each of Subgroups 1-7 listed on pages 5-6 of the Office Action.

The invention of Group I, claims 40-56 is hereby elected, with traverse. Applicants further elect the following species:

Subgroup 1: disulfide bond as the first covalent bond; claims 40, 41, and 44-56 read of this species.

Subgroup 2: thiol as the first reactive functionality; claims 40-56 read on this species.

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Subgroup 3: thiol as the second reactive functionality; claims 40-56 read on this species.

Subgroup 4: disulfide bond as the second covalent bond; claims 40-56 read on this species.

Subgroup 5: thiol as the chemically reactive group; claims 40-56 read on this species.

Subgroup 6: disulfides as members of the library of small organic compounds; claims 40-56 read on this species.

Subgroup 7: mass spectrometry as the identifying step; claims 40-53, and 56 read on this species.

Subgroup 8: proteases as the target protein; claims 40-56 read on this species.

It is submitted that claims 40-56, and 57-62 show a significant degree of overlap, and all relate to screening methods in order to identify small molecule ligands with binding affinity for a target. Accordingly, examining the claims of Groups I and II would not place an undue burden on the Examiner, rather would facilitate the prosecution of the application. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

Although no fees are believed to be true at this time, please charge any fees, including any fees for extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: December 12, 2002 By: Ginger R. Dreger  
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